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H – 1075

International Court of Justice

Com. B.
Take 3 - P. 1
1400 - 1530 hours
Roberts
10 July 1946
Lt Gen Theodor Busse

H1075-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

10 July 1946

COMMISSIONER:

MR. RASUMOV

THE GENERAL STAFF

The Commission convened at 1400 hours.

LT. GEN. THEODOR BUSSE (General of the Infantry), took the stand, was sworn and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Will you give me your full name?

A. Theodor Busse.

Q. Very well. Dr. Laternser, you may begin.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. When were you born?

A. On December 15, 1897.

Q. What was your last rank?

A. Lieutenant General (General of the Infantry).

Q. What important functions did you fulfill in the Wehrmacht?

A. In 1929 I was a front line officer during the first World War when I was with a platoon corps; from 1929 to 1932 I went through a training for the General Staff and was a member of some staffs on the front and the General Staff. I entered the Army for this war as First General Staff Officer of the 11th Army.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. When did you become a General.

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A. I was promoted to the General's rank on the 1 March 1943, in the capacity as Chief of the General Staff of an army group. I remained in this position until July 1944. I went to the front, commanded a division and then a corps and on the 21 January 1945 I was commanded to lead an Army, the 9th Army.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. Under what date did you lead this A rmy?

A. I lead this Army until the 30 April 1945 until the enemy forced the Army group to be dissolved and to be assimilated with the 12th Army.

Q. The position on the basis of which you may be included in the group which is being charged here, you have held the position for 3 months and 10 days. Were you ultimately appointed the Supreme Commander of an Army?

A. No, I merely was commanded to lead the Army.

Q. What does that mean, commanded to lead an Army?

A. It may mean that you either were deputized for the regular commander who happens not to be available or it may be a test period which may last approximately six months.

Q. The prosecution submitted Document US 778 on the 2 March 1946. This document enumerates by name those persons who fall within the accused group. I will show you this document which contains by names these people and I will ask you to point out those names of men who were merely put in charge temporarily, that is to say those persons who were not put in permanent charge of the army. This question will refer to Theme No. 1, the composition of the military leadership.

BY DR. KEMPNER:

I object for the following reason. This witness was not an administrative officer of the War Ministry, neither was he in charge of any office which would know exactly what the positions of certain people were, whether they had commands, or any rank, etc. If the defense has any documents from

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official German military sources on an administrative officer that knows of these things that is another thing, but a person who does not have the administrative rank to testify on this very difficult question is not the proper witness to testify. It is also not announced that he will testify on this topic.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

The prosecution does not seem to object to the question which I put, consequently the question itself must be relevant and whether the witness would know something about it we shall be able to know by his answer. I am not able to submit documents, consequently questioning of witnesses will have to prove my point. The witness knows certain facts regarding the question, consequently they should be accepted. It would be up to the prosecution to put questions to the witness to find out where he derived such knowledge.

BY DR. KEMPNER:

The things this witness knows are only hearsay. If the witness' counsel likes to exclude certain persons from testifying we have to know from these witnesses whether they were generals or what their ranks were, but this witness is not able to exclude any persons from this circle.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

As far as I know the witness, even if he was a General, did not work in the General Staff. Then I would like to know how we called him as a witness for the General Staff? So I think in this point, Dr. Kempner was exactly right because he was not for the General Staff, neither for the Ministry of War.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Mr. Chairman, it only depends upon whether the witness knows the answer to the question or not. If the question is relevant and he can answer it, the answer must be accepted even if there would be better evidence for it.

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BY DR. KEMPNER:

But we have certain rules and regulations in law which have to be regarded and these rules and regulations of Anglo-Saxon law say that we get the best of evidence and not hearsay evidence. If the defense ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ counselor has a possibility to ask of the men in question and get affidavits from them that they belong to the circle or not we will accept such affidavits, but not what the General says.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

I do not understand that, because up until now the ruling that the best of evidence be accepted has not been applied in this procedure, and I can mention witnesses here by the prosecution who also offered evidence by hearsay. Though I have no intention of doing that in this case, I want to ask the witness whether on the basis of personal knowledge he knows the names of those men who were merely put in charge temporarily.

BY MR. MONNERAY:

Perhaps we could find some compromise at this point. I think the evidence here is as to the organization as a whole and not as a person but it would ~~xxx~~ be possible to ask the witness about the general characteristics of an organization, but not about the members. Yes, since, and as Dr. Kempner suggested ~~x~~ also to me, the question about knowing whether or not an individual member has the necessary qualifications is much more a matter for subsequent proceedings than as coming under the scope of this commission here.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

To justify my question I refer to the publication of the Tribunal 681, dated March 1946. This directive mentions especially that the structure of the organization also is substantial. If many persons fall within the charges

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submitted by the prosecution, than the substantiality of the question is clear.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Proceed.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Is the question admitted?

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Yes.

BY THE WITNESS:

A. May I state after having heard what happened here, what my knowledge is based on?

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. Yes. Will you please give us the names of those people who were not finally appointed to this orgániza tion and later on I shall ask you what your knowledge is based on?

A. As far as I can see from the list, I know about the following individuals:

General Almondinger

General Boge

General Brandenberger

Myself

General von der Cheva lri

General Fuertsch, Herman

General Fretta - Pico

General Hasse, Wilhelm

General Holpert, Karl

General Kleffel, Phillipp

General Loch

General Lucht

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General Muella, Friedrich

General Nehring, Walta

General Rasp, Seigfried

General von Saucken

General Wenck

General Wiese

These are the names with which I am acquainted from the list. I can not say that I have overlooked anyone and neither can I say that there are others.

Q. What was your rank on the 4 February 1938?

A. Major.

Q. And on the 1 September 1939?

A. Lt. Colonel.

Q. And on the 31 December 1941?

A. Colonel.

Q. How far and to what extent are you acquainted with the circle of people who have been put together by the prosecution under the characteristics General Staff and OKW?

A. I am acquainted with approximately 35 of the persons mentioned there. I know half of them quite well since my duty brought me in contact with them. Well, the other half, I should say I know them in the way you know your superiors who are away above you.

Q. At the time you were commanded to command an army, were you given special explanations or did you have to agree to something or were you made acquainted with any plans?

BY MR. MONNERAY:

I object to this question which seems to be much too large. It is necessary to get something more concrete.

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BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Can't you make it more concrete?

BY DR. LATERNSER:

I wish to object to the objection because I do not consider it correct. I have asked the question whether at the time he was commanded to lead an army he received any special directives or explanations pertaining to special plans. It seems to me that the question is complete enough. What I mean by that, for instance, when he was entering the group temporarily he might have been told something about plans.

BY MR. MONNERAY:

So let's put the question to him, whether or not he had any instructions concerning the plans of the General Staff. I think it is absolutely inadmissible to put a question without giving any relationship between the point and the complete meaning.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

The point is established by my p utting the time as joining the group.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

We should not argue any more about that point. Proceed, Dr. Laternser.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. The question is admitted. Witness, will you please answer it?

A. I have had no directions of that sort. All I received was of a technical mission which is of no interest here.

Q. Was there a group of military leaders all together as the prosecution charges?

A. No, there could not have been anything like that. No, because looking at this list I see the name of SS Himmler and it is well known now that he was

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the mortal enemy of the army. So how could there have been such a group. I know only that just like officers of other ranks we do our duty and we are all united in our leader.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Why did the witness come to those conclusions?

A. Because Himmler had organized the SS and undermined the army and the larger the SS group the more clearly it became that they wanted to eliminate the army entirely.

Q. Dr. Laternser, please proceed.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. In 1939 did you return from duty at the front into the supreme command of the army?

A. On the 1 April 1939 I was transferred to the training section as First General Staff Officer.

Q. Was your transfer at that time in any way connected with preparation for war in regard to the filling of positions or in any other way?

A. No, I came from duty at the front and by the usual rotating system it was my predecessor's turn to be sent to the front.

Q. It was at that time when preparations for the Polish campaign and its beginning were taken. Did you participate in these preparations and what was the attitude of the OKA?

A. My position was dealing with the peace training of the German army so I had nothing to do with the preparations for war. As a matter of fact we had plans for that year which still were in the process of being realized and later on we found out that they were a serious impediment for a quick assembly.

BY MR. MONNERAY:

Q. Will the witness state what his exact position was in this period?

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BY DR. LATERNSER:

He said he was the First Staff Officer of the training section of the OKW.

BY THE WITNESS:

A. Our plans consisted of the following: In the first place, maneuvers with participation of large motorized units. That is to say mechanized units. Secondly, a fortification maneuver which was to attempt to find out the resistance of the newly constructed west wall against heavy artillery. Since there was only very little ammunition available for these most modern weapons the entire ammunition for them was to be brought to the practice area in Grapenwoher. There was a 25th anniversary of the battle at Tannenberg which brought many troops there from the Reich and the rolling material was heavily loaded. I had fulfilled a very very difficult task by finishing by July the entire training program for the German; having had it approved by the Chief of the General Staff I gave it to the printer in August. Since this planning covered the period from the 1 October 1939 to 30 September 1940, it was clear that I would not have undergone all this work if I had known there was to be a war.

Q. How about the fortifications on the east wall?

A. In addition to that we had to order large troop movements during the summer, I do not know exactly what time of the summer it was; ordered them to work on the east fortifications of the wall. These troops had to be brought there by rail, otherwise they would not have been able to bring them there quick enough. Also these troops were not useable later on in the march against the east.

Q. How and when were you made aware, as a member of the General Staff, of the fact of the Polish campaign?

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A. The Chief of the General Staff of the OKW had assembled the General Staff on the 23rd or 24th of August, I do not remember exactly when, and he told them about it. And then again a sort of change in the situation happened which permitted the Staff of the OKW to believe that it was again a military threat.

Q. One question pertaining to the western campaign. Do you know how it finally came, despite everything, to the bombardment of Rotterdam?

A. Yes, on the basis of a report of the Supreme Commander of the Army which I received while I was the 22nd Luftlande. I had orders that as soon as bridges north of Rotterdam were constructed to connect me to the 22nd Luftlande to go there. After the conquest of Rotterdam I was there about 22 to 24 hours later. The military commander at that time, a Lieutenant Colonel by the name of Choltitz, and Col. Kreysing reported to me when I got there that it was not possible to stop the Stuka attack because the surrender discussions had been retarded and I saw the city aflame. So unfortunately the first echelon still released their bombs. I do not know how many echelons there were.

Q. Do you know why the air attack was not stopped? Was it because the radio communications of the 22nd ~~kxxxxxx~~ Luftlande Division were not in order or do you know anything about it at all?

A. I can only refer to the report I received at the time, which I transferred to superior officers, that the radio communication of the 22nd Division unfortunately did not function properly.

Q. Before you left the OKW in December 1940, had you heard of aggressive intentions against Russia and what was the attitude of the OKW at the time? Please give a very brief comment on this point?

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A. During my connection with the OKW up to September 1940 I had not heard anything of such plans. The general attitude of my contemporaries at the time was that they did not even think of such a thing. A great part of them even had, I might say, the feeling of brothers-in-arms for the Russian officers because they knew a great many of their military leaders. I myself participated in a training together with six higher Russian officers. Also we considered it complete absurd the very thought of a two front war.

Q. What function did you fulfil after leaving the OKW?

A. I was the first training officer at the OKA-11 which was installed in ~~Leipzig~~ Leipsic.

Q. When did you hear first of the intentions against Russia?

A. We remained in Leipsic until Easter I believe in April 1941. Corresponding to the duties for which we were employed we were permitted there to supervise the training of divisions within the whole territory. I might say that we had certain thoughts of peace, which were based on demobilization measures. On the second holiday of Easter of 1941 we were called away with our final destination unknown. While we were on the way we were told we were going to Rumania with the order as Training Staff Rumania. Only after our arrival we were told that there was a danger of war and we were ordered to prepare, together with the Rumanian Army, for an eventuality since Rumania felt it was being threatened by Russia. After having been there for some time, that is to say the second half of May, we were given a supplementary order to prepare a subsidiary action ~~for~~ which was to be supplementary to a main operation to the north.

Q. You then participated in the Easter campaign?

A. Yes.

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Q. Do you know the Commissioner?

A. After the commissioner's order being spotlighted now again, I do recall that I was acquainted with the commissioner.

Q. What was your reaction to this order?

A. As a soldier I elected it because that was my concept that as a soldier I had to even though it may be an assignment which we do not know of must be treated as a soldier.

Q. Was the order executed as far as you were able to observe within your arear of effectiveness?

A. At the time my superior general V. Schobert rejected this order also. As far as I know this order was not executed since essentially it was rejected everywhere.

Q. Do you know of a case in which it has been applied?

A. No.

Q. Do you know whether anything was undertaken against this order?

A. I only know that within the army authority area there existed the silent agreement that the order would not be executed and I was thus informed also by my subordinate. We could not stop this order because as I remember the order was distributed by the way of military channels from the top a uthorities on.

Q. When you say from the top on, what are you referring to?

A. I can not maintain that it was the OKW but I must assume that it was the OKW. This also was a transmitting authority since it certainly would have received that order from the OKW.

Q. I now have questions to put to you regarding the murder of Jews in the east. First, a general question. What do you know of Hitler's intention to exterminate the Russian people and its Jewish components in particular?

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A. That I have learned after the collapse, from the publications.

Q. At the time you participated in this campaign did you become aware of mass murders of Jews?

A. No.

Q. Are you acquainted with the Einsatzgruppen of the SD?

A. Yes, before I went into the Polish campaign, the counter-intelligence officer reported to me that these groups were attached in order to perform political police duties. We would have nothing to do with them since they received their orders directly from Himmler. They were attached to us only economically, but we did have the right to exploit reports from enemy territories which they brought in for our purposes.

Q. In order to clarify, what was your knowledge at the time of the tasks of these SD Kommandos?

A. While in former previous campaigns all police duties in invaded hostile territories were performed by the army, they now were to be performed by these special SD troops directly under the command of the highest police force, directly I may say under Mr. Himmler. The reason given to us was that in Russia we would need special political police.

Q. What were these police duties of the SD Kommandos?

A. As I just described it they were reserved in the political attitude of the hostile population and the stopping of conspiracies or attacks on the security of the army in the rear armies.

BY MR. MONNERAY:

Q. In order to show to what extent the witness had a knowledge of these things, in what part of the Eastern campaign was he exactly?

BY DR. LATERNSER:

A. I wish to come to this question in one of the next questions I

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want to put and it will appear in a different connection.

Q. Witness, how did this cooperation of the army on one side and the SD on the other come out?

A. The only contact with the leaders of this group was had by the counter-intelligence officers and the officers responsible for the supply.

Q. What was the connection between the counter-intelligence officers and the SD Kommandos?

A. If the counter-intelligence officer wished to get some information perhaps based on a supposition of unrest in the population or perhaps in regard to the resistance movement he was empowered to ask the leader of SD Kommandos or a liaison man if he was present. These leaders appeared with us often.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Dr. Laternser, how much longer will your questioning take?

BY DR. LATERNSER:

A. I'll be finished in half an hour.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

We will take a short recess.

(The commission recessed at 1530 hours)

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(The Commission resumed at 1545 hours)

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. Lieutenant General, have you used while ago the word "man" in connection with your statement?

A. Yes in that sense that one can not always refer directly to the Chief of the Commando to a certain man who is in charge of that special section.

Q. In which Army did you belong at that time?

A. I belonged to the 11th Army.

Q. What was your position in that Army?

A. I was the First Officer of the General Staff.

Q. Does that mean the 1-A?

A. Yes. The 1-A who was in charge of the operations.

Q. The First Officer of the General Staff deals with all tactical orders?

A. Yes.

COMMISSIONER: You were Chief of Operations Section weren't you?

BY THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. All tactical orders had to pass through your hands even if they referred to the backward area of the operations? For instance if they dealt with the battle partisans?

A. All tactical orders, yes. Too, if it was to deal with partisans.

Q. Who was, at that time, the Supreme Commander of the 11th Army?

A. From the beginning until September 13, 1941, the Supreme Commander was Colonel General von Schobert.

Q. Who was his successor?

A. He was killed on the 13th of September and in the period from the 13th until the 20th of this month, there was only a replacement by General von Salnuth,

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and on September 20, 1941, the General of the Infantry von Munstein, who was at that time General of the Infantry, took the place.

Q. As you have been Chief of the Operative Division and had in this capacity to deal with all orders of a tactical character, I want to ask you if at any time, any of your Supreme Commanders has given operative orders to the SD Einsatzgruppen to the combat sections of the Sicherheitsdienst?

A. No. Even as far as tactical orders are concerned, there could have been only marching orders which were never given by the Supreme Commander.

Q. What has come to your knowledge in your capacity as Chief of the Operative Section, or to the knowledge of your Supreme Commander as to the activities of these combat units? I want to insert here the statement as proved by this trial, thousands of Jews have been murdered by these specific combat units.

A. I may say that two things have come to our knowledge. First of all, if the 1-C was informed of any rumors of difficulties by his operative basis when he travelled through this backward area, then he came and told us that according to information given by the Einsatzgruppen, this or that had happened in this region. This referred to the political mood of the people or to events like attacks by partisans or something in this line. And furthermore, I remember that ~~the legal~~ ~~I~~ regular intervals/quarterly or monthly, ~~after three months~~, ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ they submitted reports as to the general situation in those backward areas and reports based on information given by the combat units.

Q. The witness Ohlendorff has been questioned by this tribunal and who was a leader of the SD Einsataf in the area of the 11th Army, has stated that the Army must have been informed with regard to the activities of these combat units.

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The witness stated, furthermore, that there existed an order by the Befehl AOKM the Army Supreme Command which is according to which the executions could not take place in less than 2½ kilometers. In other parts of his statement he said less than 200 kilometers from headquarters. Was there, at any time, such an order?

A. I have no knowledge of this order and seems highly improbable to me that such an order was issued because 200 kilometers would be out of the area we covered and I cannot see any reason for an order concerning 2½ kilometers.

Q. Ohlendorff furthermore stated that officers of the 11th Army even attended the executions of Jews. Has there ever been a report to you of such facts?

A. No, that has not been reported to me. I have no knowledge of it and I think that it cannot be.

Q. He has furthermore stated that volunteers of the Army had volunteered for the fighting squads.

MR. MONNERAY: I think that exactly the same questions have been put to General Munstein who was the Chief of this witness so I do not think it is necessary to put the same questions once more to this witness.

DR. LATERNSER: The question is not useless because as shown by the statement of the witness, General von Munstein has appeared at the Supreme Command of the 11th Army only on 20 September 1941. The statement of Ohlendorff covers the whole period of the activity of the 11th Army, therefore the present witness has to cover the period in which General Munstein was the Head Supreme Commander.

COMMISSIONER: The witness may answer this question.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. I have asked you whether you ever had knowledge of the fact that a soldier of the 11th Army had volunteered for the firing squads which were composed of members of the SD.

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A. No.

Q. Now the last question with regard to the statements of Ohlendorff. Ohlendorff has stated that organs of the Army had even asked for a speeding up of the extermination of Jews in order to create new housing possibilities in Simferopol where the housing problem was urgent. Have you any knowledge with regard to this?

A. As far as the period when I was in the Crimea is concerned, I have no knowledge of such matters, furthermore, I deem it impossible that an organ of the Supreme Command of the Army should interfere with such matters. Furthermore, I want to stress the point that it was just the Army who always called for as little as possible, administrative organs in Simferopol because of the danger of air raids.

Q. Where was the replacement of the OKH at that period?

A. The OKH was at that time in Sarabees about 10 miles from Simferopol with the leading group. The Quartermaster was in Simferopol.

Q. What period was the OKH in Nikolajef?

A. I cannot say exactly when the OKH moved to Nikolajef. It must have been towards the end of August but they stayed there until 23 September 1941.

Q. I have to refer once more to the statement by Ohlendorff because the witness Ohlendorff has stated that Himmler once paid him a visit in Nikolajef. Have you any knowledge whether that visit of Himmler was at the same time when the Army High Command was still in Nikolajef?

A. I remember that we were in Nikolajef at that time but Himmler did not visit us and we only had knowledge of it after he had been there. I remember even that the High Commander, at that time Colonel General von Schoberf, was even furious that we should not have been informed of an event of that importance.

COMMISSIONER: Have you any more questions?

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BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. Yes, but I will be through right away. However, since the following questions have been answered already by von Munstein but I have to conclude with one more question. You had taken over the command of an Army just before the end of the war, that is in generally 1945. The situation at that time was already desperate wasn't it? What were the reasons that made you take charge of such an important task at that time?

A. First of all I had a very clear order to do so. The order came to me during the night at 12 o'clock in the Kuland and I was to fly to Oppelu the next morning at 5 o'clock. At first I couldn't even be properly informed what was the matter. To point to when I was on the spot, I received a very clear tactical order which may be divided up into two parts. First, I was to free an Army group which was engaged in a very definite fight and entirely surrounded. This Army Group was commanded by General Nehring. The second point was to reform the party front east of the order of Ortepo and to stop the offensive which was on the run against Berlin. There were surely period of times where there were better tasks to take over than this part of the front but as a brave soldier who loved his fatherland I had to take over the command and to do my duty. Point 3. I had a great commission to fight for as much time as could be gained because I was told that we had to gain time for political negotiations. Furthermore, I had the morale task which I took on myself, that was when I saw the miserable groups of my country travelling west I wanted to protect them from the enemy coming from the East. I want to conclude that in all times soldiers have been as desperate and even more desperate places than places I was in charge of at that time. Often they have preferred death to the surrounding.

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COMMISSIONER: I think you have properly answered the question and we don't want to hear more of it.

BY THE WITNESS:

A. These were the reasons for which even in that desperate position, I took charge of the Army and I executed the order I had been given.

DR. LATERNSER: I was just about to declare that this was about my last question. I have no more questions.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY DR. ROBERT KEMPNER:

Q. When were you born?

A. 15 December 1897.

Q. Where were you born?

A. Frankfurt on the Oder.

Q. You know pretty well all those gentlemen which you have enumerated on the list while ago so you have good knowledge of the offices they occupied? I am asking you to answer "yes" or "no".

A. I have no knowledge of all the duties that these men had.

Q. Then we will just check. Who was the Feder Picof?

A. His last task was the Command of the 6th Army after he was replaced.

Q. What was his former occupation?

A. He was a Commanding General.

Q. Have you knowledge of another Picof?

A. I cannot recall but it is possible that there was another Picof.

Q. How old was he?

A. I estimate that he was 53.

Q. Was he the liaison man between the Army and the Reichsfuehrer of the SS?

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A. No, he was always a soldier.

Q. That does not exclude it?

A. No.

Q. Is that the best answer you can give?

A. I have no knowledge at all of a liaison man and I don't understand the question.

Q. The Army had liaison men to the SS. Do you know that?

A. I have to ask a counter-question. Do you mean the Army has a military unit of the Army High Command?

Q. The Chiefs of all organs had ~~xxxxx~~ liaison men to the SS.

A. The Army High Command had no liaison men. The Commands of the groups of the Army had neither.

Q. And you have no information as to that. That is all I can say.

A. I was Chief of an Army Group and I am surely informed with regard to the organization of an Army Group.

Q. You cannot be mistaken can you?

A. No.

Q. But you are. Would you please tell us the duties of the 1-C? In your previous statement you have only given us part of these duties.

A. The 1-C had two tasks, the intelligence and the counter-intelligence. The counter-intelligence dealt too with the area in which the army was already operating.

Q. What was the influence of the reports the 1-C made with regard to the situation of the enemy?

A. As far as the enemy in his position was to be taken into account, he furnished the base of these reports.

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Q. You were informed of the week spots of the enemy by the 1-C? Is that correct?

A. All spots—the weak and strong spots as far as we could see it.

Q. On what did the 1-C base his reports?

A. On the Intelligence Service and those means all around in the area and on its agents and the technical means that they had at their disposal.

Q. Is it correct that part of these agents were placed at the disposal of the 1-C by the SD?

A. I have no knowledge of this and I think at the beginning of the war it was quite impossible because the agent service was not yet fully in action.

Q. From what moment on did this happen?

A. I do not know that because there was such a secret about this agent service that the 1-A, and at times, even the 1-C had no information as to the details of this service.

Q. As an 1-A you did not know of the sources of the 1-C?

A. I have named these sources but we did not know who were the agents and where they worked and what was the kind of their work.

Q. You have said before that in Russia, because of special tasks, for the first time these agents of the SD were brought into action. Is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you been in France?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you been in Holland?

A. Four days as I have mentioned before in liaison with Rotterdam.

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Q. Have you been in Belgium?

A. No.

Q. And you do not know that in France as well as in Russia the SD was on the spot?

A. No.

Q. Do you want to correct your previous declaration by saying that you do not know that there were any SD agents in other countries or do you want to maintain that there were none?

A. It was in Russia that for the first time we had orders that such police executives should fall behind our lines with special tasks.

Q. And you have never seen any SD in France?

A. During the period when I was in France, no.

Q. When was it?

A. I was in France from about 8 December after the beginning of the campaign until the Armistice, first on the staff of the General Fieldmarshal von List. In the second part he was in the staff of Fieldmarshal von Kleist. My task was that of an liaison officer between the OKH and the two staffs which I have just mentioned.

Q. And all these countries were simply full of these SD and you do not know that, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France?

A. No. I do not know that.

Q. It is very interesting. ~~What~~ were the reports written by those people in Russia, and sent to you, reports which later on were passed on to the 1-C?

A. I have already made a statement as to that.

H1075 - 0025

Q.No. You have not made any statement on that account.

A. First I said that one kind of report handed to the 1-A by the 1-C was based on rumors which 1-C had received as to revolts in the backward areas. And then secondly, the 1-C had in monthly or 3 months intelligence reports at his disposal coming from the SD and from which he took the picture of the situation and of the mood of the population in the backward areas.

Q. Those were reports of at least 5 centimeters on the back?

A. I have never seen such reports.

Q. How many pages had the report you had seen?

A. I cannot say anything about the volume of the reports. I have no knowledge whether I have seen those reports actually. I have stated that the 1-C has read to me of those reports but I cannot declare under oath whether I have seen any of those reports because I have read so much since then. But I am quite sure that I would recall if I had seen such a volume of paper all together.

Q. It might have been 20 or 25 pages.

A. Matters which interested us had no such form.

Q. You had a great opinion of the SD and SS? You have stated that haven't you?

A. I have talked of the SD.

Q. Yes but what about the SS?

A. I had only spoken of the leader of the SS of which I had no good opinion at all. The Army on the front, having fought as decent soldiers and decent commanders.

Q. You mean the SS soldiers?

A. Yes, the SS units.

H1075-0026

Q. You have no knowledge that SS men have commanded murders in the low criminal way? You have no knowledge of this have you?

A. No I have no knowledge of this.

Q. When did you hear for the first time of the SD combat units?

A. Just before the beginning of the campaign against Russia.

Q. When did you hear for the first time that these units were used to kill people?

A. After the war but the publication started it. I want to stress the point that even in the beginning I didn't even believe that such a volume of crimes could be committed.

Q. You do not know that that information was passed on to the 1-C too?

A. That is quite impossible. In any case in my staff it could not have happendd because then it would have kept something from me which was not to be kept from me.

Q. But you told us that he had kept everything secret with regard to agents and such. Why shouldn't he have kept this matter secret?

A. I have not stated this in the sense the prosecution puts it now. I have only said that even the 1-C had no knowledge of the agents and replacements at that time. It was a whole network of liaison men between in order to protect those people and in this way even the 1-C sometimes did not know who their agents were.

Q. When did you hear for the first time that Hitler and his regime persecuted and killed minorities such as Jews?

A. I have to separate that in two parts.

Q. Do not make a long speach on it.

H1075 - 0027

A. I have already a short time before the war heard that Jews were brought to special regions and deported there, that the Jews were murdered in the way they were. I did not know at that time and I have never approved it and I don't approve it now.

Q. Where were you in November 1938?

A. In Bremen.

Q. Didn't you know that in Breman the windows of Jewish shops were smashed and thousands of Jews were arrested?

A. I know that and especially in that town with its international character and situation, there was a great furious popular opinion against these events.

Q. What was the position you took?

A. I was first officer of the General Staff of the 22nd Division.

Q. Have you done anything against those horrible things?

A. We could not have done so because this was a mere police task. When we had knowledge of it the events were already over.

Q. Did you ever have the idea of resigning your post because you did not want to have to do with anything with such a criminal region?

A. First of all we had already served under various regions and we could not yet foresee how long this region was going to remain and, secondly, the extent of the criminal character of the region could not yet be realized and we only deemed those things events of a revolutionary character which we hoped soon to be over. And furthermore, we of the Army had to take an oath for 25 years in compliance with the Versailles Treaty and this duty could not be resigned without special arrangements and for me I had taken up the engagement until 1945.

H1075-0028

Q. Now I have only a short chapter in this connection. At what school did you get your instruction as General Staff Officer.

A. At the Division Headquarters in Stuttgardt.

Q. Have you ever been at the school in Berlin?

A. At that time there were no schools in Berlin but only the courses for Fuehrer replacers.

Q. And the gentlemen who have followed this course been considered a special selection elite?

A. No but if they had to follow these lessons and had to be selected for them, if they had gone through the courses they were staff officers from which one could demand for any other.

Q. Have you been a member of the Schlieffen Association?

A. Yes, everybody was a member of this Schlieffen Association. It is an unit which was composed of honorary young and former general staff officers who convened only once a year.

Q. Have you been against the Versailles Treaty?

A. As far as it had dishonorable conditions for Germany, yes.

Q. As the Chief of the territory you agreed didn't you?

A. Only with regard to the question of the one maintainable corridor of Danzig, that is by the claiming direct connection between Eastern Prussia and the territory of the Reich were of any importance to us.

Q. When you say "us", you mean the General Staff Officers, don't you?

A. I speak of the thought of an officer in general until 1929. I was a mere front officer.

Q. You were against colonies?

A. I do not declare that although I have not especially dealt with the necessity of colonies, still I always thought that colonies were necessary to us to give us the goods and raw materials we needed.

H1075 - 0029

Q. Have you been a partisan of the theory of vital space?

A. The theory of vital space has never played an important part in the thoughts of the officers unless you consider the colonies a problem of the vital space.

Q. The Army was in a bad position under the Republic. It was hindered ~~instructed~~ by the Versailles Treaty. Is that so?

A. I cannot answer this with one word.

Q. Was the situation of the Army better once Hitler had come into power? Yes or NO?

A. No. One has to take the different angles. If one considered the fact that we eventually came to a point where we had not the fear of being considered weaklings in the midst of strong powers, well in that regard we were better off. From the economic angle there was no difference.

Q. You have been in favor of the resumption of the of the so-called Wehr sovereignty?

A. Yes, I was in favor of the cause. I thought ~~at~~ the fact to be degrading that a great country could not have sufficient armament for its defensive needs.

Q. You thought Germany would be attacked by the surrounding countries, did you not?

A. No we didn't in that manner.

Q. What was your rank in October 1932 during the last days of the Republic?

A. I was just about to be promoted Captain. I was a First Lieutenant.

Q. You were a First Lieutenant, and what was your age?

A. I was then 35 years old.

Q. You were a First Lieutenant at 35 years and you have been a General under Hitler. Is that correct?

H1075 - 0030

A. I have to think it over one minute. Yes, I have been a 1st Lieutenant in 1933.

Q. Is it true that at 35 years of age under the Republic the highest rank you obtained was First Lieutenant and under Hitler you have become a General?

A. Yes.

Q. Thank you.

MR.
BY MR. MONNERAY:

Q. Have you been in the occupied territories of the west after June 1940?

A. Until the end of September I remained in Fontainebleau.

Q. What was your function in Fontainebleau?

A. I had been recalled from the General Staff of General von Kleist and I dealt with instructions and with collecting information on the campaign of France.

Q. Did you have any connection with the Military Administration of France?

A. No and I left Fontainebleau at the end of September. It may have been the 20th or it may have been the 24th.

Q. And you didn't return any more to the West?

A. Never.

BY DR. ORLOV: I have a couple of questions. Did you see Ohlendorff very often when you were Chief of the Operative Section of the 11th Army?

A. No. In the beginning I could not even recall Ohlendorff and only when I was shown the statement here and I had to see the name in order to recall it. I don't remember whether I saw it once or twice but it was not a long talk in that line but only for a courtesy visit.

Q. Has he never talked to you on his work?

A. No.

Q. Have you received an order of the Fieldmarshal von Reichen dated October 10, 1941 dealing with the conduct of troops in the occupied territories of the east?

H1075-0031

A. As far as I recall it was submitted to us merely for information reasons, to give us an example of what the High Command would like to have in the Backward Area. We have never understood this order because I have to stress the point that in the Ukraine we soldiers had complete understand with the population.

COMMISSIONER: Have you got any more questions?

BY DR. ORLOV:

Q. Yes. Have you dealt in the East with the fighting of partisans?

A. I had very little to do with that fight. It will probably be known to the Prosecutor that as well as in the Crimean as in the Ukraine, the fight against the partisans had only very little importance

Q. Have you received an order or a circular letter written by Kleist dealing with the communistic revolts in the occupied Eastern territories, and in this letter it was mentioned that life in the East was worth nothing and that for one murdered German soldier 50 to 100 communists should be murdered?

A. I cannot recall this order.

Q. Have you seen another order issued weekly by Kleist of December 16, 1942 which contains the following sentence? "Therefore the troop is justified and has even the duty even in this battle to use, even against women and children, all the means of force if only it will lead to success".

A. I cannot recall such an extract of a letter. Furthermore, I want to draw the attention of the Prosecutor to the fact that direct orders by Kleist did not always reach the Army because the Army Headquarters in the OKW were between the Army and the Supreme Command.

Q. Have you received another circular letter dealing with the execution of the judicial system (court-martial) in the territory called Barbarossa and with special measures taken by the troop?

H1075 - 0032

A. I can recall this order. It has been given in connection with the order by a Commissioner which has been mentioned today but I did not deal with that matter because it was not in my report. It was the report of the Military Tribunal only.

Q. And you have not executed this order?

A. I remember that this order has been either cancelled by the Supreme Command or weakened to such an extent by an order of General von Baudi that it did not actually come into effect.

Q. I have no further questions.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

DR. LATERNSER: Mr. President. I will be through in a few minutes.

COMMISSIONER: Very well, Dr. Laternser, you may proceed.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q. Colonel General, you have been asked whether you took any steps in November 1938 when these regrettable incidents against the Jews took place. What was your rank in November 1938?

A. I was a Major.

Q. You have been questioned on the duties of the 1-C. What was their main task?

A. Their main task was Intelligence work and Counter-Intelligence work.

Q. That means that this task was the basis for the military fighting against the enemy?

A. Yes. The decision is based on 3 points. One is the orders, second the enemy and third is the power we have at our disposal. And with regard to the enemy, that was the task of the 1-C.

H1075-0033

Q. That means that the main task of the 1-C was mainly military?

A. That is quite correct and it went as far as that the Counter-Intelligence was not placed under High Command but under the direct command of the Chief of Staff. I am speaking of my capacity as Chief of the Operative Section as 1-A.

Q. Here is a point which I want to strongly express. Was the 1-C in a position to give orders to the SD Sicherheitsdienst combat units?

A. No he could only ask them and make demands in order to clarify one point or the other.

Q. In your capacity as an 1-A did you have a very closs cooperation with the 1-C?

A. When the situation was normal he came at least once a day. When it became dangerous he came twice or three times and gave me reports on the situation.

Q. That means that you had a good personal knowledge of these 1-C Officers?

A. Yes, it was a daily co-worker.

Q. According to your knowledge, as far as those officers are concerned, do you think they would have mentioned it to you if they received reports that thousands of Jews had been murdered by these Einsataf commandos?

A. Yes already because they would have been furious and they wouldn't have known what to do about it but wished that something was done.

Q. Now a few questions to the so-called rational order document USSR 12. You told us that this order had been sent to you as information if you will recall that.

A. Yes, that is the way I recall it, that we received it as a sort of an example.

H1075-0034

Q. If any order goes to an office by way of information, is it then for the Receiving Office an order or only information?

A. No it cannot be an order. If you take a commercial living sample which is sent to you does not mean that you have to buy.

Q. Did the relations with the civilian population change after this order had been received?

A. No, as I told you before, there was no object for such an order because our relations with the civilian population both in the Crimean and the Ukraine were very good.

Q. I have no further questions.

COMMISSIONER: I think we can finish with this witness now. The witness may be excused.

(The Commission adjourned at 1705)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of THEODORE BUSSE taken 10 July 1946.

Evelyn M. Roberts
Reporter (pp. 1-14)

M Shumway
Reporter (pp. 15-33)

Reporter (pp.)

CERTIFIED TO:

I Rasmuson
Commissioner

H1075-0035

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

MR. RASUMOV

THE GENERAL STAFF

The Commission convened at 1400 hours.

LT. GEN. THEODOR BUSSE (General of the Infantry), took the stand, was sworn and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q Will you give me your full name?

A Theodor Busse.

Q Very well. Dr. Laternser, you may begin.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q When were you born?

A On December 15, 1897.

Q What was your last rank?

A Lieutenant General (General of the Infantry).

Q What important functions did you fulfill in the Wehrmacht?

A In 1929 I was a front line officer during the first World War when I was with a platoon corps; from 1929 to 1932 I went through a training for the General Staff and was a member of some staffs on the front and the General Staff. I entered the Army for this war as First General Staff Officer of the 11th Army.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q When did you become a General?

A I was promoted to the General's rank of the 1 March 1943, in the capacity as Chief of the General Staff of an army group. I remained in this position until July 1944. I went to the front, commanded a division and then a corps and on the 21 January 1945 I was commanded to lead an Army, the 9th Army.

H1075 - 0036

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q Under what date did you lead this Army?

A I lead this Army until the 30 April 1945 until the enemy forced the Army group to be dissolved and to be assimilated with the 12th Army.

Q The position on the basis of which you may be included in the group which is being charged here, you have held the position for three monghs and ten days. Were you ultimately appointed the Supreme Commander of an Army?

A No, I merely was commanded to lead the Army.

Q What does that mean, commanded to lead an Army?

A It may mean that you either were deputized for the regular commander who happens not to be available or it may be a test period which may last approximately six months.

Q The prosecution submitted Document US 778 on the 2 March 1946. This document enumerates by name those persons w ho fall within the accused group. I will show you this document which contains by names these people and I will ask you to point out those names of men who were merely put in charge temporarily, that is to say these persons who were not put in permanent charge of the army. This question will refer to Theme No. 1, the composition of the military leadership.

BY DR. KEMPNER:

I object for the following reason. This witness was not an administrative officer of the War Ministry, neither was he in charge of any office which would know exactly what the positions of certain people were, whether they had commands, or any rank, etc. If the defense has any documents from official German military sources on an administrative officer that knows of these things that is another thing, but a person who does not have the administrative rank to testify on this very difficult question is not the proper witness to testify. It is also not announced that he will testify on this topic.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

H1075-0037

The things this witness knows are only hearsay. If the witness' counsel likes to exclude certain persons from testifying we have to know from these witnesses whether they were generals or what their ranks were, but this witness is not able to exclude any persons from this circle.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

As far as I know the witness, even if he was a General, did not work in the General Staff. Then I would like to know how we called him as a witness for the General Staff? So I think in this point, Dr. Kempner was exactly right because he was not for the General Staff, neither for the Ministry of War.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Mr. Chairman, it only depends upon whether the witness knows the answer to the question or not. If the question is relevant and he can answer it, the answer must be accepted even if there would be better evidence for it.

BY DR. KEMPNER:

But we have certain rules and regulations in law which have to be regarded and these rules and regulations of Anglo-Saxon law say that we get the best of evidence and not hearsay evidence. If the defense counselor has a possibility to ask of the men in question and get affidavits from them that they belong to the circle or not we will accept such affidavits, but not what the General says.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

I do not understand that, because up until now the ruling that the best of evidence be accepted has not been applied in this procedure, and I can mention witnesses here by the prosecution who also offered evidence by hearsay. Though I have no intention of doing that in this case, I want to ask the witness whether on the basis of personal knowledge he knows the names of these men who were merely put in charge temporarily.

BY DR. MONNERAY:

Perhaps we could find some compromise at this point. I think

H1075-0038

the evidence here is as to the organization as a whole and not as a person but it would be possible to ask the witness about the general characteristics of an organization, but not about the members. Yes, since, and as Dr. Kempner suggested also to me, the question about knowing whether or not an individual member has the necessary qualifications is much more a matter for subsequent proceedings than as coming under the scope of this commission here.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

To justify my question I refer to the publication of the Tribunal 681, dated March 1946. This directive mentions especially that the structure of the organization also is substantial. If many persons fall within the charges submitted by the prosecution, than the substantiality of the question is clear.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Proceed.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Is the question admitted?

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Yes.

BY THE WITNESS:

A May I state after having heard what happened here, what my knowledge is based on?

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q Yes. Will you please give us the names of those people who were not finally appointed to this organization and later on I shall ask you what your knowledge is based on?

A As far as I can see from the list, I know about the following individuals:

General Almondinger

General Boge

General Brandenberger

Myself

General von der Chevallri

H1075 - 0039

General Fuertsch, Herman

General Fretta - Pico

General Hasse, Wilhelm

General Holpert, Karl

General Kleffel, Phillipp

General Loch

General Lucht

General Muella, Friedrich

General Nehring, Walta

General Rasp, Seigfried

General von Saucken

General Wenck

General Wiese

These are the names with which I am acquainted from the list. I cannot say that I have overlooked anyone and neither can I say that there are others.

Q What was your rank on the 4 February 1938?

A Major.

Q And on the 1 September 1939?

A Lt. Colonel.

Q And on the 31 December 1941?

A Colonel.

Q How far and to what extent are you acquainted with the circle of people who have been put together by the prosecution under the characteristics General Staff and OKW?

A I am acquainted with approximately 35 of the persons mentioned there. I know half of them quite well since my duty brought me in contact with them. Well, the other half, I should say I know them in the way you know your superiors who are away above you.

Q At the time you were commanded to command an army, were you given special explanations or did you have to agree to something or were you made acquainted with any plans?

BY MR. MONNERAY:

I object to this question which seems to be much too large. It is necessary to get something more concrete.

H1075-0040

THE COMMISSIONER: Can't you make it more concrete?

DR. LATERNSER: I wish to object to the objection because I do not consider it correct. I have asked the question whether at the time he was commanded to lead an army he received any special directives or explanations pertaining to special plans. It seems to me that the question is complete enough. What I mean by that, for instance, when he was entering the group temporarily he might have been told something about plans.

MR. MONNERAY: So Let's put the question to him, whether or not he had any instructions concerning the plans of the General Staff. I think it i absolutely inadmissible to put a question without giving any relationship between the point and the complete meaning.

DR. LATERNSER: The point is established by my putting the time as joining the group.

THE COMMISSIONER: We should not argue any more about that point. Proceed, Dr. Laternser.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q The question is admitted. Witness, will you please answer it?

A I have had no directions of that sort. All I received was of a technical mission which is of no interest here.

Q Was there a group of military leaders all together as the prosecution charges?

A No, there could not have been anything like that. No, because looking at this list I see the name of SS Himmler and it is well known now that he was the mortal enemy of the army. So how could there have been such a group. I know only that just like officers of other ranks we do our duty and we are all united in our leader.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q Why did the witness come to these conclusions?

A Because Himmler had organized the SS and undermined the army and the larger the SS group the more clearly it became that they wanted to eliminate the army entirely.

Q Dr. Laternser, please proceed.

H1075-0041

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q In 1939 did you return from duty at the front into the supreme command of the army?

A On the 1 April 1939 I was transferred to the training section as First General Staff Officer.

Q Was your transfer at that time in any way connected with preparation for war in regard to the filling of positions or in any other way?

A No, I came from duty at the front and by the usual rotating system it was my predecessor's turn to be sent to the front.

Q It was at that time when preparations for the Polish campaign and it beginning were taken. Did you participate in these preparations and what was the attitude of the OKA?

A My position was dealing with the peace training of the German army so I had nothing to do with the preparations for war. As a matter of fact we had plans for that year which still were in the process of being realized and later on we found out that they were a serious impediment for a quick assembl.

MR. MONNERAY: Will the witness state what his exact position was in this period?

DR. LATERNSER: He said he was the First Staff Officer of the training section of the OKW.

THE WITNESS: Our plans consisted of the following: In the first place, maneuvers with participation of large motorized units. That is to say mechanized units. Secondly, a fortification maneuver which was to attemp to find out the resistance of the newly constructed west wall against heavy artillery. Since there was only very little ammunition available for these post modern weapons the entire ammunition for them was to be brought to the practice area in Grafenwoher. There was a 25th anniversary of the battle at Tannenberg which brought many troops there from the Reich and the rolling material was heavily loaded. I had fulfilled a very very difficult task by finishing by July the entire training program for the German; having had it approved by the Chief of the General Staff I gave it to the printer in August. Since this planning covered the period from the 1 October 1939 to 30 September

H1075-0042

1940, it was clear that I would not have undergone all this work if I had known there was to be a war.

Q How about the fortifications on the east wall?

A In addition to that we had to order large troop movements during the summer, I do not know exactly what time of the summer it was; ordered them to work on the east fortifications of the wall. These troops had to be brought there by rail, otherwise they would not have been able to bring them there quick enough. Also these troops were not useable later on in the march against the east.

Q How and when were you made aware, as a member of the General Staff, of the fact of the Polish campaign?

A The Chief of the General Staff of the OKW had assembled the General Staff on the 23rd or 24th of August, I do not remember exactly when, and he to then about it. And then again a sort of change in the situation happened whi permitted the Staff of the OKW to believe that it was again a military threat.

Q One question pertaining to the western campaign. Do you know how i finally came, despite everything, to the bombardment of Rotterdam?

A Yes, on the basis of a report of the Supreme Commander of the Army which I received while I was the 22nd Luftlande. I had orders that as soon as bridges north of Rotterdam were constructed to connect me to the 22nd Luftlande to go there. After the conquest of Rotterdam I was there about 22 to 24 hours later. The military commander at that time, a Lieutenant Colonel by the name of Choltitz, and Colonel Kreysing reported to me when I got there that it was not possible to stop the Stuka attack because the surrender discussions had been retarded and I saw the city aflame. So unfortunately the first echelon still released their bombs. I do not know how many echelons there were.

Q Do you know why the air attack was not stopped? Was it because the radio communications of the 22nd Luftlande Division were not in order or do you know anything at all about it?

A I can only refer to the report I received at the time, which I transferred to superior officers, that the radio communication of the 22nd

H1075-0043

Division unfortunately did not function properly.

Q Before you left the OKW in December 1940, had you heard of aggressive intentions against Russia and what was the attitude of the OKW at the time? Please give a very brief comment on this point?

A During my connection with the OKW up to September 1940 I had not heard anything of such plans. The general attitude of my contemporaries at the time was that they did not even think of such a thing. A great part of them even had, I might say, the feeling of brothers-in-arms for the Russian officers because they knew a great many of their military leaders. I myself participated in a training together with six higher Russian officers. Also we considered it completely absurd the very thought of a two front war.

Q What function did you fulfil after leaving the OKW?

A I was the first training officer at the OKW-11 which was installed in Leipsic.

Q When did you hear first of the intentions against Russia?

A We remained in Leipsic until Easter I believe in April 1941. Corresponding to the duties for which we were employed we were permitted then to supervise the training of divisions within the whole territory. I might say that we had certain thoughts of peace, which were based on demobilization measures. On the second holiday of Easter of 1941 we were called away with our final destination unknown. While we were on the way we were told we were going to Rumania with the order as Training Staff Rumania. Only after our arrival we were told that there was a danger of war and we were ordered to prepare, together with the Rumanian Army, for an eventuality since Rumania felt it was being threatened by Russia. After having been there for some time, that is to say the second half of May, we were given a supplementary order to prepare a subsidiary action which was to be supplementary to a main operation in the north.

Q You then participated in the Eastern campaign?

A Yes.

Q Do you know the Commissioner?

A After the commissioner's order being spotlighted now again, I do

H1075-0044

recall that I was acquainted with the commissioner.

Q What was your reaction to this order?

A As a soldier I elected it because that was my concept that as a soldier I had to even though it may be an assignment which we do not know of must be treated as a soldier.

Q Was the order executed as far as you were able to observe within your area of effectiveness?

A At the time my superior general V. Schobert rejected this order also. As far as I know this order was not executed since essentially it was rejected everywhere.

Q Do you know of a case in which it has been applied?

A No.

Q Do you know whether anything was undertaken against this order?

A I only know that within the army authority area there existed the silent agreement that the order would not be executed and I was thus informed also by my subordinate. We could not stop this order because as I remember the order was distributed by the way of military channels from the top authorities on.

Q When you say from the top on, what are you referring to?

A I can not maintain that it was the OKW but I must assume that it was the OKW. This also was a transmitting authority since it certainly would have received that order from the OKW.

Q I now have questions to put to you regarding the murder of Jews in the east. First, a general question. What do you know of Hitler's intention to exterminate the Russian people and its Jewish components in particular?

H1075 - 0045

A That I have learned after the collapse, from the publications.

Q At the time you participated in this campaign did you become aware of massmurders of the Jews?

A No.

Q Are you acquainted with the Einsatzgruppen of the SD?

A Yes, before I went into the Polish campaign, the counter-intelligence officer reported to me that these groups were attached in order to perform political police duties. We would have nothing to do with them since they received their orders directly from Himmler. They were attached to us only economically, but we did have the right to exploit reports from enemy territories which they brought in for our purposes.

Q In order to clarify, what was your knowledge at the time of the tasks of these SD Kommandos?

A While in former previous capaigns all police duties in invaded hostile territories were performed by the army, they now were to be performed by the special SD troops directly under the command of the highest police foce, dir. I may say under Mr. Himmler. The reason given to us was that in Russia we would need special political police.

Q What were these police duties of the SD Kommandos?

A As I just described it they were reserved in the political attitude of the hostile population and the stopping of conspiracies or attacks on the security of the army in the rear armies.

BY MR. MONNERAY:

Q In order to show to what extent the witness had a knowledge of these things, in what part of the Eastern campaign was he exactly?

BY DR. LATERNSER:

A I wish to come to this question in one of the next questions I want to put and it will appear in a different connection.

Q Witness, how did this cooperation of the army on one side and the SD on the other come out?

A The only contact with the leaders of this group was had by the counte intelligence officers and the officers responsible for the supply.

Q What was the connection between the counter-intelligence officers and the SD Kommandos?

H1075-0046

A If the counter-intelligence officer wished to get some information perhaps based on a supposition of unrest in the population or perhaps in regard to the resistance movement he was empowered to ask the leader of SD Kommandos or a liaison man if he was present. These leaders appeared with us often.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q Dr. Laternser, how much longer will your questioning take?

BY DR. LATERNSER:

A I'll be finished in half an hour.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

We will take a short recess.

(The commission recessed at 1530 hours.)

* * * * * * *

(The commission resumed at 1545 hours.)

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q Lieutenant General, have you used while ago the word "man" in connection with your statement?

A Yes, in that sense that one cannot always refer directly to the Chief of the Commando to a certain man who is in charge of that special section.

Q In which Army did you belong at that time?

A I belonged to the 11th Army.

Q What was your position in that Army?

A I was the First Officer of the General Staff.

Q Does that mean the 1-A?

A Yes. The 1-A who was in charge of the operations.

Q The First Officer of the General Staff deals with all tactical orders?

A Yes.

COMMISSIONER: You were Chief of Operations Section, weren't you?

BY THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q All tactical orders had to pass through your hands even if they

H1075-0047

referred to the backward area of the operations? For instance if they dealt with the battle partisans?

A All tactical orders, yes. Too, if it was to deal with partisans.

Q Who was, at that time, the Supreme Commander of the 11th Army?

A From the beginning until September 13, 1941, the Supreme Commander was Colonel General von Schobert.

Q Who was hhis successor?

A He was killed on the 13th of September and in the period from the 13th until the 20th of this month, there was only a replacement by General von Salnuth and on September 20, 1941, the General of the Infantry von Munstein, who was at that time General of the Infantry, took the place.

Q As you have been Chief of the Operative Division and had in this capacity to deal with all orders of a tactical character, I want to ask you if at any time, any of your Supreme Commanders has given operative orders to the SD Einsatzgruppen to the combat sections of the Sicherheitsdienst?

A No. Even as far as tactical orders are concerned, there could have been only marching orders which were never given by the Supreme Commander.

Q What has come to your knowledge in your capacity as Chief of the Operative Section, or to the knowledge of your Supreme Commander as to the activities of these combat units? I want to insert here the statement as proved by this trial, thousands of Jews have been murdered by these specific combat units.

A I may say that two things have come to our knowledge. First of all, if the I-C was informed of any rumors of difficulties by his operatiye basis when he travelled through this backward area, then he came and told us thataccording to information given by the Einsatzgruppen, this or that had happened in this region. This referred to the political mood of the people or to events like attacks by partisans or something in this line. And furthermore, I remember that at regular intervals, quarterly or monthly, they submitted reports as to the general situation in those backward areas and reports based on information given by the combat units.

Q The witness Ohlendorff has been questioned by this tribunal and who was a leader of the SD Einsatz in the areaof the 11th Army, has stated that

H1075-0048

the Army must have been informed with regard to the activities of these combat units. The witness stated, furthermore, that there existed an order by the Befehl AOKH the Army Supreme Command which is according to which the executions could not take place in less than 2/ kilometers. In other parts of his statement he said less than 200 kilometers from headquarters. Was there, at any time, such an order?

A I have no knowledge of this order and it seems highly improbable to me that such an order was issued because 200 kilometers would be out of the area we covered and I cannot see any reason for an order concerning 2½ kilometers.

Q Ohlendorff furthermore stated that officers of the 11th Army even attended the executions of the Jews. Has there ever been a report to you of such facts?

A No, that has not been reported to me. I have no knowledge of it and I think that it cannot be.

Q He has furthermore stated that volunteers of the Army had volunteered for the fighting squads.

M. MONNERAY: I think that exactly the same questions have been put to General Munstein who was the Chief of this witness so I do not think it is necessary to put the same questions once more to this witness.

DR. LATERNSER: The question is not useless because as shown by the statement of the witness, General von Munstein has appeared at the Supreme Command of the 11th Army only on 20 September 1941. The statement of Ohlendorff covers the whole period of the activity of the 11th Army, therefore the present witness has to cover theperiod inwhich General Munstein was the Head Supreme Commander.

COMMISSIONER: The witness may answer this question.

BY DR.LATERNSER:

Q I have asked you whether you ever had knowledge of the fact that a soldier of the 11th Army had volunteered for the firing squads which were composed of members of the SD.

A No.

Q Now the last question with regard to the statements of Ohlendorff.

H1075-0049

Ohlendorff has stated that organs of the Army had even asked for a speeding up of the exterminati.on of Jews in order to create new housing possibilities in Simferopol where the housing problem was urgent. Have you any knowledge with regard to this?

A As far as the period when I was in the Crimea is concerned, I have no knowledge of such matters; furthermore, I deem it impossible that an organ of the Supreme Command of the Army should interfere with such matters. Furthermore, I wans to stress the point that it was just the Army who always called for as little as possible, administrative organs in Simferopol because of the danger of air raids.

Q Where was the replacement of the OKH at that period?

A The OKH was at that time in Sarabees about 10 miles from Simferopol with the leading group. The Quartermaster was in Simferopol.

Q What period was the OKH in Nikolajef?

A I cannot say exactly when the OKH moved to Nikolajef. It must have been towards the end of August but they stayed there until 23 September 1941.

Q I have to refer once more to the statement by Ohlendorff because the witnessOhlendorff has stated that Himmler once paid him a visit in Nikolajef. Have you any knowledge whether that visit of Himmler was at the same time when the Army High Command was still in Nikolajef?

A I remember that we were in Nikolajef at that time but Himmler did not visit us and we only had knowledge of it after he had been there. I remember even that the High Commander, at that time Colonel General von Schobert, was even furious that we should not have been informed of an event of that importance.

COMMISSIONER: Have you any more questions?

H1075-0050

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q Yes, I will be through right away. However, since the following questions have been answered already by von Munstein but I have to conclude with one more qestion. You had taken over the command of an Army just before the end of the war that is in generally 1945. The situation at that time was already desperate wasn' it? What were the reasons that made you take charge of such an important task at that time?

A First of all I had a very clear order to do so. The order came to me durin the night at 120'clock in the Kuland and I was to fly to Oppelu the next morning at 5o'clock. At first I couldn't even be properly informed what was the matter. To point to when I was on the spot, I received a very clear tactical order which may be divided up into two parts. First, I was to free an Army group which was commanded by General Nehring. The second point was to reform the partyfront east of the order of Ortepo and to stop the offensive which was on the run against Berlin. There were surely period of times where there were better tasks to take over than this part of the front but as a brave soldier who loved his fatherland I had to take over the command and to do my duty. Point 3. I had a great commission to fight for as much time as could be gained because I was told that we had to gain time for political negotiations. Furthermore, I had the morale task which I took on myself, that was when I saw the miserable group of my country travelling west I wanted to protect them from the enemy coming from the east. I want to conclude that in all times soldiers have been as desperate and even in more desperate places than places I was in charge at the time. Often they have preferred death to the surrounding.

COMMISSIONER: I think you have properly answered the question and we don't want to hear more of it.

BY THE WITNESS:

A These were the reasons for which even in that desperate position. I took charge of the Army and I executed the order I had been given.

DR. LATERNSER: I was just about to declare that this was about my last question. I have no more questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY DR. ROBERT KEMPNER:

H1075-0051

Q When were you born?

A 15 December 1897.

Q Where were you born?

A Frankfurt on the Oder.

Q You know pretty well all those gentlemen which you have enumerated on the list while ago so you have good knowledge of the offices they occupied?

I am asking you to answer "yes" or "no".

A I have no knowledge of all the duties that these men had.

Q Then we will just check. Who was the Feder Picof?

A His last task was the command of the 6th Army after he was replaced.

Q What was his former occupation?

A He was a Commanding General.

Q Have you knowledge of another Picof?

A I cannot recall but it is possible that there was another Picof.

Q How old was he?

A I estimate that he was 53.

Q Was he the liaison man between the Army and the Reichsfuehrer of the SS?

A No, he was always a soldier.

Q That does not exclude it?

A No.

Q Is that the best answer you can give?

A I have no knowledge at all of a liaison man and I don't understand the question.

Q The Army had liasion men to the SS. Do you know that?

A I have to ask a counter-question. Do you mean the Army has a military unit of the Army High Command?

Q The Chiefs of all organs had liaison men. The Commands of the groups of the Army had neither.

Q And you have no information as to that. That is all I can say.

A I was Chief of an Army Group and I am surely informed with regard to the organization of an Army Group.

Q You cannot be mistaken can you?

A No.

H1075-0052

Q But you are. Would you please tell us the duties of the 1-C? In your previous statement you have only given us part of these duties.

A The 1-C had two tasks, the intelligence and the counter-intelligence. The counter-intelligence dealt too with the area in which the army was already operating.

Q What was the influence of the reports the 1-C made with regard to the situation of the enemy?

A As far as the enemy in his position was to be taken into account, he furnished the base of these reports.

H1075-0053

Q You were informed of the weak spots of the enemy by the 1-C ? Is that correct ?

A All spots as far as we could see it.

Q On what did the 1-C base his reports?

A On the Intelligence Service and those means all around in the area and on its agents and the technical means that they had at their disposal.

Q Is it correct that part of these agents were placed at the disposal of the 1-C by the SD ?

A I have no knowledge of this and I think at the beginning of the war it was quite impossible because the agent service was not yet fully in action.

Q From what moment on did this happen ?

A I do not know that because there was such a secret about this agent service that the 1-A, and at times, even the 1-C had no information as to the details of this service.

Q As an 1-A you did not know of the sources of the 1-C ?

A I have named these sources but we did not know who were the agents and where they worked and what was the kind of their work.

Q You have said before that in Russia, because of special tasks, for the first time, these agents of the SD were brought into action. Is that correct ?

A Yes.

Q Have you been in France ?

A Yes.

Q Have you been in Holland ?

A Four days as I have mentioned before in liaison with Rotterdam.

Q Have you been in Belgium ?

A No.

Q And you do not know that in France as well as in Russia the SD was on the spot ?

H1075-0054

A No.

Q Do you want to correct your previous declaration by saying that you do not know that there were any SD agents in other countries or do you want to maintain that there were none ?

A It was in Russia that for the first time we had orders that such police executives should fall behind our lines with special tasks.

Q And you have never seen any SD in France ?

A During the period when I was in France, no.

Q When was it ?

A I was in France from about 8 December after the beginning of the campaign until the Armistice, first on the staff of the General Fieldmarshal von List. In the second part he was in the staff of Fieldmarshal von Kleist. My task was that of a liaison officer between the OKH and the two staffs which I have just mentioned.

Q And all these countries were simply full of these SD and you do not know that : Norway, Holland, Belgium and France ?

A No. I do not know that.

Q It is very interesting. Were the reports written by those people in Russia, and sent to you, reports which later on were passed on to the 1-C ?

A I have already made a statement as to that.

Q No. You have not made any statement on that account.

A First I said that one kind of report handed to the 1-A by the 1-C was based on rumors which 1-C had received as to revolts in the backward areas. And then secondly, the 1-C had in monthly or 3 months intelligence reports at his disposal coming from the SD and from which he took the picture of the situation and of the mood of the population in the backward areas.

Q Those were reports of at least 5 centimeters on the back?

H1075-0055

A I have never seen such reports.

Q How many pages had the report you had seen ?

A I cannot say anything about the volume of the reports. I have no knowledge whether I have seen those reports actually. I have stated that the 1-C has read to me of those reports but I cannot declare under oath whether I have seen any of those reports because I have read so much since then. But I am quite sure that I would recall if I had seen such a volume of paper all together.

Q It might have been 20 or 25 pages.

A Matters which interested us had no such form.

Q You had a great opinion of the SD and the SS ? You have stated that, haven't you ?

A I have talked of the SD.

Q Yes, but what about the SS ?

A I had only spoken of the leader of the SS of which I had no good opinion at all. The Army on the front, having fought as decent soldiers and decent commanders.

Q You mean the SS soldiers ?

A Yes, the SS units.

Q You have no knowledge that SS men have commanded murders in the low, criminal way ? You have no knowledge of this, have you ?

A No, I have no knowledge of this.

Q When did you hear for the first time of the SD combat units ?

A Just before the beginning of the campaign against Russia.

Q When did you hear for the first time that thses units were used to kill people ?

A After the war, but the publication started it. I want to stress the point that even believe that such a volume of crimes could be committed.

Q You do not know that that information was passed on to the 1-C too ?

H1075-0056

A That is quite impossible. In any case, in my staff it could not have happened because then it would have kept something from me which was not to be kept from me.

Q But you told us that he had kept everything secret with regard to agents and such. Why shouldn't he have kept this matter secret?

A I have not stated this in the sense the prosecution puts it now. I have only said that even the 1-C had no knowledge of the agents and replacements at that time. It was a whole network of liaison men between in order to protect those people and in this way, even the 1-C sometimes did not know who their agents were.

Q When did you hear for the first time that Hitler and his regime persecuted and killed minorities such as Jews ?

A I have to separate that in two parts.

Q Do not make a long speech on it.

A I have already a short time before the war heard that Jews were brought to special regions and deported there, that the Jews were murdered in the way they were. I did not know at that time and I have never approved it and I don't approve it now.

Q Where were you in November 1938 ?

A In Bremen.

Q Didn't you know that in Bremen the windows of Jewish shops were smashed and thousands of Jews were arrested?

A I know that, and especially in that town with its international character and situation, there was a great furious popular opinion against these events.

Q What was the position you took ?

A I was first officer of the General Staff of the 22nd Division.

Q Have you done anything against those horrible things?

A We could not have done so because this was a mere police task. When we had knowledge of it, the events were already over.

H1075-0057

Q Did you ever have the idea of resigning your post because you did not want to have to do anything with such a criminal region ?

A First of all, we had already served under various regions and we could not yet foresee how long this region was going to remain, and, secondly, the extent of the criminal character of the region could not yet be realized and we hoped soon to be over. And furthermore, we of the army had to take an oath for 25 years in compliance with the Versailles Treaty, and this duty could not be resigned without special arrangements and for me, I had taken up the engagement until 1945.

Q Now, I have only a short chapter in this connection. At what school did you get your instruction as General Staff Officer ?

A At the Division Headquarters in Stuttgardt.

Q Have you ever been at the school in Berlin ?

A At that time there were no schools in Berlin, but only the courses for Fuehrer replacers.

Q And the gentlemen who have followed this course have been considered a special selection elite ?

A No, but if they had to follow these lessons and had to be selected for them, if they had gone through the courses they were staff officers from which one could demand for any other.

Q Have you been a member of the Schlieffen Association?

A Yes, everybody was a member of this Schlieffen Association. It is an unit which was composed of honorary young and former general staff officers who convened once a year.

Q Have you been against the Versailles Treaty ?

A As far as it had dishonorable conditions for Germany, yes.

Q As the Chief of the territory you agreed, didn't you ?

A Only with regard to the question of the one maintain-

H1075-0058

able corridor of Danzig, that is by the claiming direct connection between Eastern Prussia and the territory of the Reich were of any importance to us.

Q When you say "us", you mean the General Staff officers, don't you ?

A I speak of the thought of an officer in general until 1929. I was a mere front officer.

Q You were against colonies ?

A I do not declare that, although I have not especially dealt with the necessity of colonies, still I have always thought that colonies were necessary to us to give us the goods and raw materials we needed.

H1075-0059

Q Have you been a partisan of the theory of vital space?

A The theory of vital space has never played an important part in the thoughts of the officers unless you consider the colonies a problem of the vital space.

Q The Army was in a bad position under the Republic. It was hindered by the Versailles Treaty. Is that so?

A I cannot answer this with one word.

Q Was the situation of the Army better once Hitler had come into power? Yes or No?

A No. One has to take the different angles. If one considered the fact that we eventually came to a point where we had not the fear of being considered weaklings in the midst of strong powers, well in that regard we were better off. From the economic angle there was no difference.

Q You have been in favor of the resumption of the so-called Wehr sovereignty?

A Yes, I was in favor of the cause. I thought the fact to be degrading that a great country could not have sufficient armament for its defensive needs.

Q. You thought Germany would be attacked by the surrounding countries, did you not?

A No we didn't in that manner.

Q What was your rank in October 1932 during the last days of the Republic?

A I was just about to be promoted Captain. I was a First Leutenant.

Q You were a First Lieutenant, and what was your age?

A I was then 35 years old.

Q You were a First Lieutenant at 35 years and you have been a General under Hitler. Is that correct?

A I have to think it over one minute. Yes, I have been a 1st Lieutenant in 1933.

Q Is it true that at 35 years of age under the Republic the highest rank you obtained was First Lieutenant and under Hitler you have become a General?

H1075-0060

A Yes.

Q Thank you.

BY MR. MONNERAY:

Q Have you been in the occupied territories of the west after June 1940?

A Until the end of September I remained in Fontainebleau.

Q What was your function in Fontainebleau?

A I had been recalled from the General Staff of General von Kleist and I dealtwith instructions and with collecting information on the campaign of France.

Q Did you have any connection with the Military Administration of France?

A No and I left Fontainebleau at the end of September. It may have been the 20th or it may have been the 24th.

Q And you didn't return any more to the West?

A Never.

BY DR. ORLOV:

I have a couple of questions. Did you see Ohlendorff very often when you were Chief of the Operative Section of the 11th Army?

A No. In the beginning I could not even recall Ohlendorff and only when I was shown the statement here and I had to see the name in order to recall it. I don't remember whether I saw it once or twice but it was not a l talk in that line but only for a courtesy visit.

Q Has he never talked to you on his work?

A No.

Q Have you received an order of the Fieldmarshal von Reichen dated October 10, 1941 dealing with the conduct of troops in the occupied territories of the east?

A As far as I recall it was submitted to us merely for information reasons, to give us an example of what the High Command would like to have in the Backward Area. We have neverunderstood this order because I have to stress the point that in the Ukraine we soldiers had complete understanding with the population.

H1075-0061

COMMISSIONER: Have you got any more questions?

BY DR. ORLOV:

Q Yes. Have you dealt in the East with the fighting of partisans?

A I had very little to do with that fight. It will probably be known to the Prosecutor that as well as in the Crimean as in the Ukraine, the fight against the partisans had only very little importance.

Q Have you received an order or a circular letter written by Kleist dealing with the communistic revolts in the occupied Eastern territories, and in this letter it wasmentioned that life in the East was worth nothing and that for one murdered German soldier 50 to 100 communists should be murdered?

A I cannot recall this order.

Q Have you seen another order issued weekly by Kleist of December 16, 1942 which contains the following sentence? "Therefore the troop is justified and has even the duty even in this battle to use evenagainst women and children, all the means of force if only it will lead to success".

A I cannot recall such an extract of a letter. Furthermore, I want to draw the attention of the Prosecutor to the fact that direct orders by Kleist did not always reach the Army because the Army Headquarters in the OKW were between the Army and the Supreme Command.

Q Have you received another circular letter dealing with the execution of the judicial system (court-martial) in the territory called Barbarossa and with special measures taken by the troop?

A I can recall this order. It has been given in connection with the order by a Commissioner which has been mentioned today but I did not deal with that matter because it was not my report. It was the report of the Military Tribunal only.

Q And you have not executed this order?

A I remember that this order has been either cancelled by the Supreme Command or weakened to such an extent by an order of General von Baudiethat it did not actually come into effect.

Q I have no further questions.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

DR. LATERNSER: Mr. President. I will be through in a few minutes.

H1075-0062

COMMISSIONER: Very well, Dr. Laternser, you may proceed.

BY DR. LATERNSER:

Q Colonel General, you have been asked whether you took any steps in November 1938 when these regretable incidents against the Jews took place. What was your rank in November 1938?

A I was a Major.

Q You have been questioned on the duties of the 1-C. What was their main task?

A Their main task was Intelligence work and Counter-Intelligence work.

Q That means that this task was the basis for the military fighting against the enemy?

A Yes. The decision is based on 3 points. One is the orders, second the enemy and third is the power we have at our disposal. And with regard to the enemy, that was the task of the 1-C.

Q That means that the main task of the 1-C was mainly military?

A That is quite correct and it went as far as that the Counter-Intelligence was not placed under High Command but under the direct command of the Chief of Staff. I am speaking of my capacity as Chief of the Operative Section as 1-A.

Q Here is a point which I want to strongly express. Was the 1-C in a position to give orders to the SD Sicherheitsdienst combat units?

A No he could only ask them and make demands in order to clarify one point or the other.

Q In your capacity as a 1-A did you have a very close cooperation with the 1-C?

A When the situation wasnormal he came at least once a day. When it became dangerous he came twice or three times and gave mereports on the situation.

Q That means that you had a good personal knowledge of these 1-C officers?

A Yes, it was a daily co-worker.

Q According to your knowledge, as far asthose officers are concerned, do you think they would have mentioned it to you if they received reports that

H1075-0063

thousands of Jews had been murdered by these Einsatzf commandos?

A Yes already because they wouldhave been furious and they wouldn't have known what to do about it but wished that something was done.

Q Now a few questions of the so-called rational order document USSR 12. You told us that this order had been sent to you as information if you will recall that.

A Yes, that is the way I recall it, that we received it as a sort of an example.

Q If any order goes to an office by way of information, is it then for the Receiving Office an order or only information?

A No it cannot be an order. If you take a commercial living sample which is sent to you it does not mean that you have to buy.

Q Did the relations with the civilian population change after this order had been received?

A No, as I told you before, there was no object for such an order because our relations with the civilian population both in the Crimean and the Ukraine were very good.

Q I have no further questions.

COMMISSIONER: I think we can finish with this witness now. The witness may be excused.

(The Commission adjourned at 1705.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of THEODORE BUSSE taken 10 July 1946.

EVELYN M. ROBERTS
Reporter

M. SHUMWAY
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

I. RASIMOV
Commissioner